

# CITYSCENE



## MARCH STARS WINNER

The City of Murfreesboro is pleased to announce Rover Driver Clint Thomas of Murfreesboro's Transportation Department as the STARS award recipient for March 2013. Clint will be recognized for his outstanding work at the April 18, 2013 meeting of the Murfreesboro City Council for "Succeeding Through Attitudes Reflecting Service Excellence." It is an honor to recognize the City's greatest assets – its employees. On a cold Friday evening recently, Clint was able to assist a passenger and his four children when they arrived late at the Rover transfer hub. Clint had already left and was half-



way through his run when he received word that the family was stranded. They were trying to call for other transportation, but in the meantime, Clint finished dropping off his passengers and volunteered to return to the hub to see if they were still there. Once he got there and learned the family wasn't able to find other transportation, Clint took the family home. While not required to do this, Rover

tries its best to not leave its riders stranded, and his actions were above and beyond the call of duty. Actually, many of our Rover drivers have been kind enough to offer such services over the years. When

told about winning the STARS award for his efforts, Clint's response was "it's what I do and I would do it again". It was also recently noted by a member of the public that Clint is always in a good mood and that he appreciates him coming to work with a good attitude. Murfreesboro is fortunate to have employees so caring and honorable.

### Inside this edition:

- ⇒ Safety Committee
- ⇒ SECLA Graduate
- ⇒ MFRD Get a New Ride
- ⇒ City Manager Corner
- ⇒ Benefit Tidbits
- ⇒ Congrats it's a girl
- ⇒ Happy Anniversary
- ⇒ New Employees

## New Wheels Hit MPD—They're Ridin' In Style



Motor Officers Chris Harris (left) and Clayton Williams

The Murfreesboro Police Department recently purchased four Harley-Davidson Electra Glide Police Motorcycles. The motorcycles came with a new design, moving away from solid white to a white and blue combination. The motorcycles were equipped and assigned to individual officers of the

Motorcycle Unit. The main focus of the Motorcycle Unit is to reduce traffic crashes by enforcing traffic laws throughout the City, especially in areas with high traffic volume and crash rates.

*"When life throws you a curve, lean into it."*

—author unknown

## SURVEY SAYS... *Who's on our Safety Committee?*



**Pictured from left to right:** *Marty Mayo, Golf; Mary States; Risk Mgt; Angela Jackson, Parks & Rec; Danny Lowe, Street; Linda Burt, Sr. Ctr; Roy Fields, Police; Ed Etzkin, Rover; Todd Adams, Water; Kim Fann, Fleet; Larry Willford, City Schools*

The City recently conducted a safety survey which was administered by J. Smith Lanier. Over 600 employee responses were received, all of which were anonymous. The results were reviewed and three major areas of concentration were identified which included communications, training, and safety concerns. One

suggestion given to bolster communication was to recognize the safety committee members (pictured above) in the CityScene as many employees were unaware of the different members in the various departments. Going forward employees should look forward to seeing regular safety meetings being conducted as the City begins to review alternative

training methods and reporting mechanisms. In the mean time let's remember, if you see an accident or action that is unsafe, report it immediately to your supervisor, safety committee member or any member of management. There are no innocent bystanders. Let's keep the City safety record on the upswing!

## CITY MANAGER CORNER



Dear fellow employee:

In the March 23rd *Daily News Journal*, Editor Clay Morgan wrote a column about the City's strong public services. Mr. Morgan recognized the excellent services we provide and the

value we provide. This month also saw the completion of the first Citizens Academy. Nineteen residents spent Monday evenings with us to learn about the City. They came away knowing that we have dedicated, hard working and professional employees. It made us all proud to hear how many times the class complimented you and the work you do. I know we made new friends and fans of the City.

We also completed the first round of Verbal Defense and Influence Training, which is also known as Verbal Judo. We learned that there are five universal truths of human interaction:

*1. All people want to be treated with dignity and*

*respect;*

*2. All people want to be asked rather than told to do something;*

*3. All people want to be told why they are being asked to do something;*

*4. All people want to be given options rather than threats;*

*5. All people want a second chance*

Additional training classes will be held in the coming weeks. The feedback from the initial round has been outstanding and we believe the course will be helpful to you. We've got a number of new and exciting projects coming this spring. A new City website will be launched in late May, the new Intranet (Murfree's Web) is coming that will provide you with information about the City, policies, benefits and events and an Information Technology Master Plan is well underway that will identify new computer systems and programs to help you do your jobs. There are always exciting things in the Boro! Keep up the good work and thank you for your service to our great City!

## MARCH STARS WINNER Continued

Continued from page 1

It is not uncommon for our employees go above and beyond to help our citizens, our customers, and their fellow co-workers. Clint is the City's first part-time employee to receive the STARS award. As a reminder, all employees, regardless of their full-time or part-time status, are eligible for the STARS award. Clint's good attitude and commitment to the public shows that all of our employees, whether full-time or part-time, take pride in their jobs and share the same job dedication.



The City expects a high level of service from our employees and the STARS Awards Committee determined that Clint genuinely represented that level of professionalism and compassion in his assistance with this family. The City of Murfreesboro wishes to recognize employees that go above and beyond to provide top quality service for both internal and external customers. As part of the award, Clint will receive \$50.00. Congratulations to Clint Thomas and the Murfreesboro Transportation Department on his STARS award! Thank you to all of our employees who "light up" Murfreesboro every day.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATE SANDERS OF THE MPD



Sergeant Keith Sanders



Congratulations to Sergeant Keith Sanders who recently graduated from the Southeastern Command and Leadership Academy (SECLA). This dynamic seven-week law enforcement leadership and management program is designed for

progressive and innovative police managers. The goal is to prepare them for the increased responsibility of administrative command positions by providing knowledge and skills necessary for successful leadership in their agencies and communities. The

SECLA curriculum was developed by a team of national experts in the field of policing. The City congratulates Sergeant Sanders on this accomplishment which will be invaluable to both the Police Department and City of Murfreesboro.

## MFRD's Newest Ride—A Polaris Ranger

On Wednesday, March 27, the new Polaris Ranger and skid unit which was donated by the Firehouse Sub Foundation in January 2013 was unveiled at the Firehouse Sub Station Restaurant. On hand for the event were City officials, MFRD personnel, the Chamber of Commerce, Councilmember Eddie Smotherman, local Firehouse Subs owners Mark and Laura Watson, and many others. Deputy Chief Roger Toombs said "The addition of the Polaris Ranger and skid unit

will greatly increase our rescue capabilities. We will now be able to respond to locations not accessible by fire apparatus. We will be able to attend many events throughout the City and reach patients more quickly if a medical situation arises. This will be a great asset to our Special Operations and Special Events Team, improving not only our response, but also our public relations. Our ultimate goal is the safety of the citizens of Murfreesboro." Captain/Shift Inspector Jeff Day



also commented on the benefits of the Polaris. He made mention of the 12 miles of Greenway that were not quickly accessible prior to obtaining the Polaris. "The department is very fortunate to

Have formed a good relationship with the Public Safety Foundation and the local Firehouse Subs restaurant" said Toombs, adding "We were very pleased to accept this wonderful donation."

# Benefit Tidbits

## --- ATTENTION --- FSA & HRA Account Holders

Beginning April 1, 2013 a change in the law will impact the FSA/HRA card employees and their family members use to pay for qualified medical expenses. Members who use the card to pay for qualified expenses currently provide their signature at the point of sale. Under the new regulation, members have the option of using a PIN number instead. If you want to set up a PIN you can call 1-888-999-0121. You must select the PIN yourself due to privacy concerns. If you call HealthSCOPE Benefits to inquire about a PIN, they will direct you to call the number listed above, again due to privacy concerns.

**H** HealthScope will be on site at City Hall April 22, 2013 from 1:30PM to 3:30PM in Room 218. Employees that have questions or concerns regarding past claims or outstanding issues should stop by and speak to Cathy Ray, Executive Account Manager for HealthScope Benefits. No appointment is needed!

## HEALTHCARE REFORM *UPDATE!*

Breast Cancer Genetic screening test (BRCA genetic testing) has been added to the healthcare.gov preventive list effective February 25, 2013. BRCA testing is a blood test used to

detect the presence of breast cancer genes, which indicates an increased susceptibility for development of breast cancer. One breast cancer gene also confers an increased susceptibility

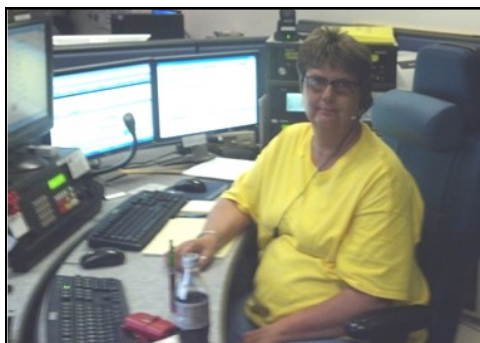
for ovarian cancer. To view all Preventive Services covered under the Affordable Healthcare Act please visit:

<http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/2010/07/preventive-services-list.html>



## National Public Safety Telecommunications Week

**N**ational Public Safety Telecommunications Week is April 14-20, 2013. It is designated as a time when citizens can thank public safety men and women and dispatch emergency professionals. Don't forget to say "Thank you" to our fantastic Dispatchers at the City of Murfreesboro!



Janie Lawrence, Dispatcher

**Congratulations** goes out to Jennifer Gregory in the Water department! She delivered a baby girl named Teagan Marie Dunaway on March 20, 2013. Baby Teagan was born weighting 7 pounds

## Spring Tips For Lawn Care

Lawn mowing is healthy for your lawn. You're trimming away the oldest part of the plant because grass grows from the bottom up. A higher cut – generally trimming the top third of the plant – will shade the roots and encourage a deeper root system. Don't scalp your lawn! A deep root system can reach water further down in the soil, providing reserve power to survive dry spells.



Different types of grass require different cutting heights; in general, cool-season grasses like fescue should be cut at three and a half inches, while warm-season grasses like bermuda are cut at one and a half to two inches.



Replace regular mowing blades on your mower with mulching blades. These types of blades cut clippings into tiny pieces. Since clippings are 85% water they decompose rapidly and naturally feed your lawn by adding nitrogen and organic matter back to the soil.



Keep your blades sharp. If you notice your grass has small brown tips it generally means your blades are dull.

Change the direction each time you mow the lawn to keep coarse grasses under control and ensure an even surface.



To help retain stability when mowing hills, riding mowers should mow up and down, while walk-behind mowers should travel across hills.

Wear proper clothing when mowing your yard; including a tucked-in shirt, long pants and closed-toed shoes with good traction. Secure or remove loose articles of clothing or jewelry so they don't catch on the equipment.

## GARDENING 101 – Dwarf Summer Planting

Unsure what to plant this summer?  
Here's a suggestion...

A brilliant choice for growing as a low edge or adding electric color to the perennial garden in summer is a *Princess Kylie crape myrtle* (pictured right). It offers bold magenta-pink flowers all summer and autumn. Its dwarf habit makes it easy to use in garden and landscape designs.



### PLANT FACTS

#### Name

Princess Kylie *Lagerstroemia*  
"GA 0803"

#### Growing Conditions

Full sun and moist  
well-drained soil

#### Size

Up to 3 feet tall and wide



## Happy Anniversary

### 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Rick Jones

### 15 YEARS

Gregory Hicks

### 10 YEARS

Ronnie Johnson

Tamara Myers

### 5 YEARS

Jared Boisseau

Joshua Borel

Erica Brinkley

Jason M. Brown

Jonathan H. Brown

Robert W. Jamison

Timothy D. Jensen

Jacob Lamb

Daniel Love

Stephen McGowan Jr.

Michael Payne

Michael Rickard

Joe Zeltner

## Welcome New Employees!

Lesa Saylor

Cecil Earp

Anthony Fann

Corey Taylor

Roger Potts

Dorris Wallace

Robert Millar

Craig Aradine

Charles Gross

James Hill

Bradley Potts

Matthew Smallwood

Scott Coy

Walter White

Roger Hill

Heather Waldrup

Susan Rollyson

William Vazquez

Jeff Youree

Bobby Roland

Ronald Ackerson

Kathryn Covington

Marty Gillahan

Cathia Moon

Barbara Kulaszewski

William Johnson

Cathy Maddox

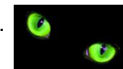


## We want to hear from you!

Be on the lookout for a newsletter opinion poll designed to get employee feedback on the CityScene. Your input is very important to the success of the newsletter. We would like to know what you

would like to see more of, what's missing that you believe would benefit employees and what you believe could we can do without. Success depends on feedback so when the opinion poll is deliv-

ered to you please take a few minutes and give it your undivided attention. The opinion poll is expected to be ready in the coming month so be on the lookout for it.



*"Recipe for success: Study while others are sleeping; work while others are loafing; prepare while others are playing; and dream while others are wishing."*

— William A. Ward